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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the cited Delorme et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,321,158). The Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the cited Delorme et al. reference and the cited Cao et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,004). Claims 12, 13, 15-18 are allowed. The Examiner stated that Claims 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations in Claim 8 and intervening Claim 7. Applicant has canceled Claims 7 and 8. Claim 14 has been amended to correct minor grammatical error.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that Claims 1-6 and 9-18 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

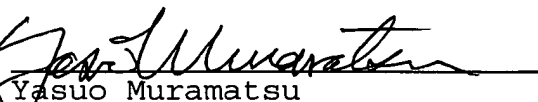
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _____

3/15/04

By: _____


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